

Libby Area Technical Assistance Group, Inc.  
PO Box 53, Libby, MT 59923  
August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2004 Meeting Notes

SDMS Document ID



2031015

(Note: bold items within paragraphs are action items agreed upon.)

Board Member Attendees:

Gayla Benefield  
JoElyn Brus  
Lee Clarke

Les Skramstad  
Abe Troyer

Employees/Contractor Attendees:

Cheryl Fox

Gordon Sullivan

- 1) Call to Order approximately (7:14 pm)
- 2) An open discussion followed regarding the upcoming political nominations for Governor, specifically Brian Schweitzer of the Democratic Party. He is to visit Libby in September and possibly invited to the next CAG meeting. This is not a political meeting, but an opportunity to meet the public.
- 3) A discussion followed regarding the letter (and email) sent out from Jim Christianson regarding the August 10<sup>th</sup> LATAG meeting (letter attached). LATAG needs to set a format and agenda that allows public participation but allows TAG to get our business done.
  - a. A review of Jim's letter followed. Gordon stated that Jim discussed pulling CDM representation for the TAG meetings as well.
  - b. Gordon reported that issues discussed at the past TAG meeting are emotionally issues and possibly individuals do not feel that they are heard at the CAG meetings. He reported that during his discussion with Aubrey, it is the responsibility of EPA, ATSDR and HSM, to come up with a solution to solve the psychological problem that is taking place in the community around the clean up. Gordon stated that an opportunity was passed up regarding the Environmental Justice Grant; this is exactly what this community needs. An agency and/or group is needed to just address the emotional, psychological and social problems surrounding the clean up. It was stated that psych-social needs were applied for and it was denied due to the needs was not recognized and a needed service. It was stated that a group needs to be empowered to begin these much-needed services.
    - i. Maybe the LATAG can put into a request for these services, but TAG should not drive these services. CAG is an opportunity for these services, but possibly the public does not feel they needs are being met. TAG maybe able to refer individuals to the appropriate agency to help resolve their issues.
    - ii. It was decided to speak with Aubrey for a resolution of the psychosocial issues surrounding the clean up.
- 4) A discussion followed regarding a guest's (Billie Moeller) property soon scheduled for clean up. Numerous issues were discussed regarding wiring, lathe/plaster ceilings and/or walls.
  - a. A Board Member stated that change orders are beginning generated to authorize extra work regarding some of the issues. This is an improvement from past directions.
  - b. From this discussion a form for LATAG property owner assistance was generated (attached).
  - c. Gordon clearly stated that LATAG cannot be an advocate for property owners, but work with them as a conduit to resolve their issues. A lot of these issues can be resolved by working with EPA. LATAG can request follow up for these issues and request written solutions for these issues.
- 5) A discussion followed regarding a template for future agenda's. After discussion a template was generated (attached) for Board approval. This approval is pending until the next meet to be held on September 14<sup>th</sup>.
  - a. It was recommended to have all Board Members review past meeting minutes for approval within the first five minutes of the next meeting.
  - b. It was recommended that reports given by TA, EPA and Sub-Committee Reports all be within ten minutes.
  - c. EPA should have copies of the previous meeting minutes and know, utilizing bulletined items, what items and issues LATAG feels they need to report on.
  - d. A concern was voiced that during the school season, FVCC will close their doors at 9:00 pm; this limits LATAG to two hours meetings.

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- 6) Work Plan:
  - a. Five Board members have been selected to attend the EPA meeting in Denver. This meeting will be held on September 28<sup>th</sup>.
- 7) Sub-Committees:
  - a. One Board member needs to be present on each sub-committee, audience participation is welcome.
- 8) An open discussion followed regarding the responsibilities of LATAG. It was clearly stated that LATAG may not solve individual problems, but the Board should be able to provide clearinghouse services to individuals as to where to get their problems solved.
- 9) It was suggested to have a LATAG email address. After discussion it was decided to put this item on hold until the Communication Sub-committee is formed.
- 10) It was decided to continue holding LATAG meeting at FVCC. When presentations from other organizations want to present to LATAG, meeting may be held earlier than 7:00pm. Public notice and invitations to these presentations will be made.
- 11) It was discussed that LATAG should work with the County Commissioners and the City Council of Libby to keep them in the loop of our goals and accomplishments.
- 12) A follow up with EPA regarding the agenda and EPA's input will be needed.
- 13) Continued work towards the LATAG Board Member nominating committee form.
- 14) A lengthy discussion introducing LATAG to a visiting photographer from Washington who was involved in the patient care of the asbestos exposure.
- 15) New Business for Next Board Meeting:
  - a. New Agenda Format;
  - b. Nomination form for possible membership on the LATAG Board;
  - c. First draft of the Property Owner Assistance Form;
  - d. Formal LATAG Vision (or mission) Statement (on going).

Next regularly scheduled LATAG meeting is for September 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:00, FV Community College.

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was held at approximately 9:00 p.m.**